

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs

FROM: John H. Dunnigan
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As you know, past NOAA actions have highlighted the opportunity for improved coordination and collaboration concerning the promulgation of fishing regulations in our Nation's marine sanctuaries. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) are both important pieces of marine resource legislation administered by NOAA.

The attached flowchart graphically traces NMSA and MSA regulatory actions from initial concept to promulgation to clarify the role of Regional Fishery Management Councils, Sanctuary Advisory Councils, Treaty Tribes, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) in this process.

As you may recall, this document was presented to you for comment on January 6, 2006. Since then, a working group of NOAA staff from NMSP and NMFS as well as attorneys from the General Counsel for Fisheries and the General Counsel for the Ocean Service, both from headquarters and the field, met to address your comments. Each comment was considered and a consensus was reached regarding the appropriate action to take. Subsequently, changes were made to the document and the final Flowchart updated version was agreed upon by NMFS and NMSP and is enclosed with this package.

Thank you very much for your continued participation in the conservation and management of our Nation's marine resources. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the health of the ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of future generations.